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To the People of the State of Mississippi.

FELLOW CITIZENS.—Being ever willing that my services, humble as they are, should be at your command, I have yielded to the solicitations of many friends, in different parts of the state, to become a candidate for the office of Governor, at the approaching election

In presenting myself before you on this occasion, I feel confident that I have been actuated by a lively interest for the prosperity of the state, and an honest zeal for the public service I have no private views to answer, or objects to accomplish, other than such as will increase the happiness of the people

Should I receive your confidence, and be called by your voice to fill this important station, it shall be my purpose to endeavor to merit the honor confered upon me, by a faithful discharge of the duties committed to my trust

In making this communication, I deem it not amiss to avail myself of the opportunity which the occasion affords, to bring to your notice a few subjects of importance to your well being, and my opinion in relation to them

The subject that stands pre eminent in this respect, and which has been ever interesting to the enlightened statesman and philanthropist, is the education of the rising generation To afford facilities to the acquirement of knowledge by the introduction of schools, where they are needed, supported by suitable patronage, is the first object of every well regulated government It is this that tends to secure and perpetuate our free, and happy institutions, and to preserve unimpaired, for those unborn, the principles of a free people

With the liberal means that have been granted by the general government, for this purpose, and others, that may be employed by the state, I conceive that a practical system of education might be organized and put in operation, that would diffuse its benefits in every part of the state

This being a time of peace is not only propitious to the encouragement of learning and the advancement of science, but particularly to those improvements in the works of art, which lead to the increase of our social comforts, and whilst our fellow citizens, in other states, are assiduously availing themselves of the moment, to cultivate and improve the arts of life, and to augment the means of personal enjoyments, we should not be inattentive to our local situation, but with a spirit of laudable enterprize, magnanimously direct our energies and resources, to such leading subjects of general utility, as is likely to produce the most lasting and beneficial results Improvements in the navigation of rivers of the greatest magnitude, and public roads, most required and used, should first elicit attention, and as the resources of the state become more and more developed, they might be better applied to more general purposes

The ultimate object of our government being the good of the people, and not for the benefit of a few, and as it has been well observed by Mr Jefferson, that great apostle of liberty, that "governments are republican only in proportion as they embody the will of the people and execute it," therefore, in all regulations in relation to internal economy of the state, the various systems should be organized upon principles of rigidity, and wisely adapted to their wants and circumstances And this is the more necessary to be observed at a time when our population is small, and our ability to sustain the weight of government so circumscribed

A general view of the circumstances of the state presents subjects for consideration, which require grave, united and patriotic councils, founded on a just estimate of our situation We are blessed with an agreeable climate, a fertile soil, capable of producing the most valuable productions, and with facilities for internal and external commerce Yet it is a fact notorious, that our population does not increase in a ratio commensurate with those advantages If this be attributed to the immaturity of our civil institutions, to the policy hitherto pursued by the general government in relation to her public lands, to the occupation of a large portion of the state by Indian tribes, or to any other cause, it will in either case become the duty of those to whom may be committed the destinies of the state, to examine fully into our relative situation, and by wise and prudent councils, adopt such measures as may remove the evils that exist, and secure those advantages which are necessary to our growth and prosperity

United as I am to the people of this state, by the ties of interest and affection, I have ever felt a deep concern in all things that effect their political advancement, and should I be invested by you with the executive functions, the several matters to which I have taken occasion to advert, shall receive my devoted attention, and every effort shall be made by me within the constitutional sphere, to lessen the evils that prevail, and to bring into operation such regulations, as will elevate the character of the state, and render it a distinguished member of the American confederacy

I am, Fellow Citizens, your obedient servant

B. R. GRAYSON.

March 23d, 1827